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COUNTRY China

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SOURCE

1. General WEI Li-huang (衛立煌), Commander of the Northeast Bandit Suppression Headquarters, is presently (May 1948) organizing a "Religious Army" in Mukden. The men for this Army are being recruited from the Buddhist believers of the P'u-chi (普濟) and P'u-hua (普化) Sects. These two Sects originated in the Tientai Mountain (天台山) area of Shansi Province and have always been violently anti-Communist. Because of this, they have often been, in the past, tools of the Japanese in thwarting Chinese Communist and Soviet plots in Manchuria.
2. In connection with this "Religious Army", WEI Li-huang plans to build up an army of approximately 15,000 men, with CH'EN Liao (陳略) as the Commander and MA CH'ün-lin (馬欽麟) as the Vice Commander. The Chief-of-Staff will be CH'EN Yu-t'ien (陳于天).

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